

IOWA VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**March 12, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

The Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee at Clarinda Mental Health Institute in Clarinda, Iowa.

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call

Dean Ibsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Those who were in attendance at the site or by conference call are the following:

Gary Benshoof, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member
Les Holland, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member
Mary Krier, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member (via conference call)
Eve Palmer, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member
Dan Prymek, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member
Terry Slinde, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member

Dean Ibsen, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Nick Smith, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Christine Suckow, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
John Dostart, Dept. of Human Services
Lee Vannoy, Dept. of Natural Resources
Kelly Glassgow, Dept. of Corrections and Dept. of Human Services
Mickel Edwards, Dept. of Corrections
Larry Smith, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Michael Schmidt, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise
Mark Lund, Dept. of Corrections and Dept. of Human Services

Those who were absent from the meeting:

Dennis Bennett, Vertical Infrastructure Committee Member

Introductions and Welcome

Les Holland called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., asking Nick Smith to call the roll. All committee members were present except for Dennis Bennett.

Questions and Comments from Committee Members

Les Holland asked Dean Ibsen for an update on the historical analysis of funding requests versus appropriations. Dean said that it was on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes for Previous Meeting

Dan Prymek moved for approval of the January and February meeting minutes, Eve Palmer seconded. Motion carried. Les Holland asked Nick Smith to make some minor grammatical changes to the February minutes.

Old Business

Dean Ibsen reviewed agenda items that have been carried forward from previous meetings. He said the Plan of Action for 2009 was not approved in February since there was no quorum. He said that Terry Slinde had proposed an addition to the Plan of Action—a recommendation that the Department of Administrative Services ask legislative leaders to encourage their fellow legislators to attend Vertical Infrastructure meetings when they are scheduled for their districts. Gary Benshoof moved to approve this addition, Eve Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Lund, the Superintendent of Clarinda spoke about the facility and the improvements that had occurred over the past few years. He handed out two documents to the committee members. Mark explained that the campus was very large and that the facilities had the most complicated and diverse programs in the State of Iowa. In 1945 they housed 1600 patients. Now they only house a fraction of that but the facility now includes a prison facility; a mental health institute, hospital and nursing home; and a trailer manufacturing operation.

The committee toured the grounds by bus and toured the prison, some areas of the main administration building and the trailer manufacturing operation.

Terry Slinde asked who paid Mark Lund's salary and he said it partly paid by the Department of Human Services and partly paid by the Department of Corrections.

Mark pointed out that Hope Hall, with 48,000 square feet of space, is now vacant. He said that some within the Department of Corrections think the building should be demolished while others would like to find another use for the building. Mark said it is a very sturdy building.

The committee broke for lunch after the tour.

Ongoing Issues/Staff Reports

Alternative Delivery Systems

There was no update.

Routine and Major Maintenance, ADA

Christine Suckow said that all major maintenance money has been allocated and Dean Ibsen said that staff working to best utilize available funds. Dean said that monthly financial meetings with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Administrative Services, CCM are used to review project progress and to adjust funding so work can move forward and the most critical needs are being met. He said that things were moving at a quicker pace now but money was becoming tighter.

Larry Smith, DAS project manager described the projects that he has been working on at Clarinda. He said that the main project was the roofing and draining projects as well as tuck pointing. He said that the projects were going well but one problem was getting the contractors to force their employees to wear safety harnesses when on the roofs. Kelly Glassgow confirmed that this was in fact a major problem. Larry also mentioned that the insurance company for the contractor that caused damage to the auditorium had stepped in and was going to cover the cost to repair.

Michael Schmidt, another DAS project manager described some of the projects he has been working on at Clarinda. He said that the tunnel project was now finished and Kelly Glassgow said that it had been a huge success and that they were able to keep their laundry facility functioning during the entire construction of the new tunnel. Michael also said that he was about to start on the new razor wire project for the prison facility.

Larry Smith said that all of the roof materials were guaranteed for 20 years.

Routine maintenance money for the facility has been used but Kelly Glassgow said that they were managing to get by.

John Dostart said that the money does not begin to meet the needs of the facility. He said that \$17,000 of money for Clarinda was being reallocated to the Iowa Juvenile Home in Toledo.

Dean Ibsen said that the ADA and Elevator projects were still on schedule and that they would more than likely be bundled together to cut costs.

Budget Offers vs. Appropriations (Historical Review)

Dean Ibsen gave a brief overview of the document he handed out comparing budget offers vs. appropriations from FY2001 to the present. Dean explained that he still did not have all of the information and it was difficult to obtain but he would continue working on the project.

Les Holland said that it had been very difficult to get this information and he said he believes this information will be valuable for making the argument that more funding needs to be directed to maintaining these facilities. Further, he said that the other agencies seemed to be getting more money and that DAS was getting the short end of the stick. He said that he can't make this argument, however, if he does not have the entire story and he needs Dean and staff to get all of the information.

Dean said that he would try and gather the rest of the information for the next month's meeting.

Other Initiatives

Stimulus Package - Dean Ibsen said that the Dept. of Management is establishing small work groups to look at this. He said that the grant money might be something that the departments could pursue for major maintenance related projects.

Lee Vannoy said that federal regulations on the stimulus money were to be finalized today.

Staffing, Database, Training

All on hold.

Consent Calendar

Christine Suckow reviewed the three items on the consent calendar:

Item 1: DPS District 1 HVAC repairs.

Michael Schmidt spoke briefly about this, explaining that the facility was without heat for some periods of time and the repair needs were essential.

Item 2: DOC Rockwell City Generator

Item 3: DHS Cherokee Tank

Dan Prymek moved to recommend approval of the consent calendar as a block. Eve Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Nick Smith talked about Senate File 376, which has passed the Senate and would provide an alternative funding source, by way of bonding, for the \$15 million in major maintenance money from the previous year that was to be funded with tobacco settlement trust fund securitized bonds. Dean Ibsen said there seem to be no prospects for new major maintenance or routine maintenance money in this legislative session.

Kelly Glasgow wanted to know about the reversion date and Dean Ibsen said that we weren't sure yet.

He briefed the committee on a presentation by the Department of Administrative Services in late February to the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee. Dean said that he told the subcommittee that we are losing ground with routine maintenance funding.

He asked the committee if they thought we should ask the agencies to submit major maintenance requests this year, with no prospects for new money and with allocations already in place for the anticipated FY2009 funds.

Les Holland said he thought we should send a letter to the appropriations subcommittee voicing concerns about the funds for routine and major maintenance.

Dan Prymek said that we should encourage agencies to do this as well. Les said that the Governor's office should be given a letter as well.

Gary Benshoof said that we need to know what the needs are, so projects should be submitted.

Eve Palmer said she thought we needed to continue making the lists and getting the requests from the agencies.

Terry Slinde said he wanted to keep this in the forefront and get the requests.

Les Holland said we need to keep an eye out on the most recent projects.

Dean Ibsen asked the committee if they wanted to continue going to the facilities or if the teleconferences would be sufficient.

Dan Prymek said that maybe we could have a few more centralized locations for the meetings in and around Des Moines.

Gary Benshoof said that he likes visiting the facilities to see what the needs are.

Eve Palmer said she is mixed on this and said maybe we could do a few teleconferences but also visit some of the facilities.

Terry Slinde said he didn't want to cut back on visiting the facilities.

Les Holland said that the agencies want us to come out to visit.

Dean Ibsen said he would pass these comments onto his supervisors.

Questions and Comments from Agency Representatives, Committee Members, Public
There were none.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on April 9th and the location is to be determined.

Adjourn

Gary Benshoof made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Terry Slinde seconded.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Nick Smith

4/03/2009